ISI activities in Bangladesh

2016. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have regularly been receiving reports of increased ISI activities in Bangladesh and tacit support extended to them by the authorities;

(b) whether Pakistan nationals owning allegiance to different terrorist outfits have been using Dhaka as a transit point for entering India and Nepal; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in collaboration with the State Government of West Bengal to meet such an alarming situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Government has received periodic reports regarding ISI activities in Bangladesh. However, the Government of Bangladesh has been reaffirming their commitment not to allow any activities prejudicial to India's interests on their territory.

(b) No verified reports have been received in this regard.

(c) Our concerns in this regard have been conveyed to the Government of Bangladesh and the Government continues to monitor the situation and take appropriate steps in consultation with the Government of West Bengal. These steps include strengthening of border management, gearing up of the intelligence machinery and modernisation and upgradation of the police and security forces with advanced weapons and communication systems.

Illegal immigration to UAE

2017. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of illegal immigrants were sent back by United Arab Emirates to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many of them were from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to check such illegal immigration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) No. Illegal immigrants were not sent back to India from UAE. The Government of UAE had announced a 4-month general amnesty from January 1, 2003 to April 30, 2003 to enable foreigners, living illegally in the UAE, to leave the country without payment of fine or prosecution. This was later extended by two months to June 30, 2003. Emergency Ceritificates were issued to a total of 24,243 Indians to enable them to return to India under the Amnesty. Of these, 5266 were from Andhra Pradesh. A number of other Indian nationals possessing valid passports also left the country after obtaining necessary clearance directly from the UAE authorities.

(c) In pursuance of the Emigration Act, 1983 all persons are required to obtain emigration clearance before going aborad *except* for the categories of persons given below. The emigration clearance is required to ensure legal emigration and to protect the interests of Indian workers:

* Persons going abroad in managerial capacity in Hotels/ Restaurants, Tea-Houses or other places of Public Resorts etc. possessing specialised Degrees in these fields;
* Gazetted Government Servants;
* Income Tax-payees;
* Persons holding professional degrees, such as Doctors holding M.B.B.S. Degree in Ayurved or Homoeopathy, accredited Journalists, Engineers, Chartered Accountants;
* Persons staying abroad for more than 3 years;
* Spouses of the above mentioned categories;
* Persons holding graduation or higher degrees;
* Seamen in Possession of Continuous Discharge Certificate and Sea Cadets and Deck Cadets;

(i) who have passed final examination of three year B.Sc. Nautical Science Courses at T.S. Chanakya, Mumbai, or

(ii) who have undergone three months Pre-Sea training at any of the Government approved Training Institutes after production of Identity Cards issued by the Shipping Master, Mumbai/Calcutta/Chennai

* Persons holding permanent Immigration Visas of any country *e.g.* Green Card in USA;

* Persons holding diplomas from recognised institutions like Polytechnics or certificates of vocational training from Governments/recognised institutions. The Diploma/Certificate should be for a minimum duration of two year course;

* Nurses possessing qualifications recognised under the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947;

* Dependent children of parents eligible for ECNR, as above (upto 24 years of age);

* All persons above te age of 60 years;

* All visitors to Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

* All visitors going to any country in Europe (except the Commonwealth of Independent States) or North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

Depiction of "OM" on socks in USA

2018. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that a Rights Group in the U.S.A. has expressed shock and disgust at the use of the Hindu symbol "OM" on the socks in the U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. In early July 2003,